

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2017

Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We are writing to express our concerns about the recent announcement that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a directive preventing scientists with EPA grants from serving on the agency's scientific advisory boards. We are alarmed at the signal this sends about the EPA's willingness to seek out objective, independent scientific expertise in fulfilling its mandate to protect the environment.

As the advising bodies tasked with evaluating the scientific and technical aspects of EPA rulemaking and research programs, the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) should be comprised of independent, highly qualified experts on the scientific research.

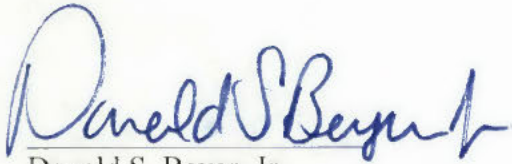
It would be an arbitrary and unnecessary limitation to disqualify preeminent experts from serving on these advisory boards because they have received EPA grants to conduct the research which has made them experts. Receiving an EPA grant, which is given with no expectation of particular results, does not constitute a conflict of interest – and no such limitation has been proposed on advisory board members who receive industry funding for their work. The SAB has been well-respected because of its historical inclusion of independent, objective scientists from both academic and industry backgrounds.

We urge you to maintain the rigorous standards and technical expertise of the science advisory boards at the EPA. It is in our country's best interest to ensure that EPA regulations have a sound scientific basis, and to ensure this we must have objective, independent, highly-qualified scientific advisors.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



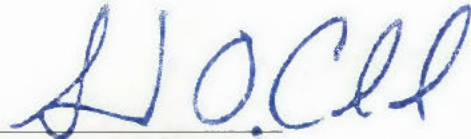
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



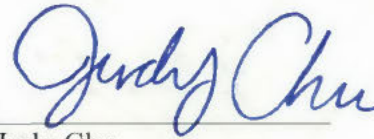
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



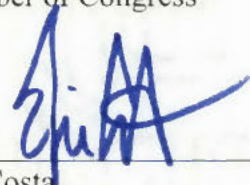
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress




Judy Chu
Member of Congress



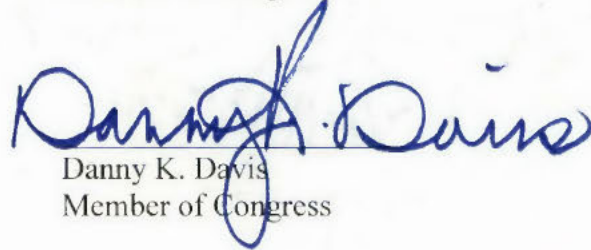
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



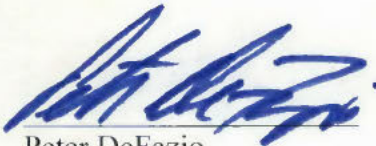
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



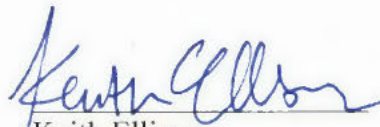
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



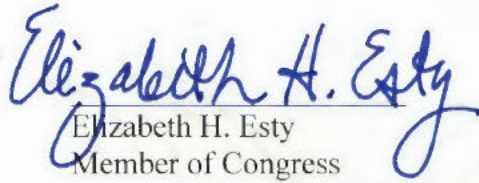
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



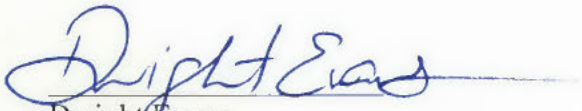
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



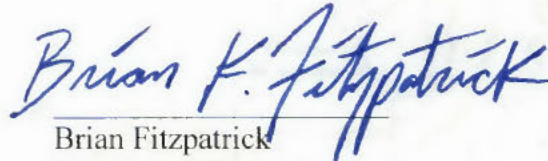
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



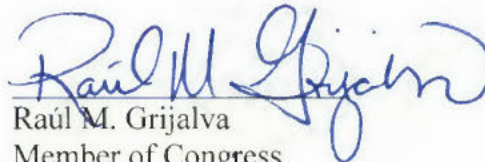
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



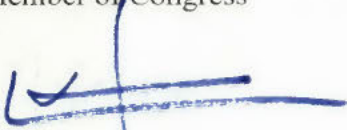
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



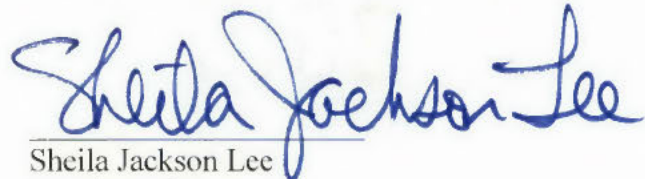
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



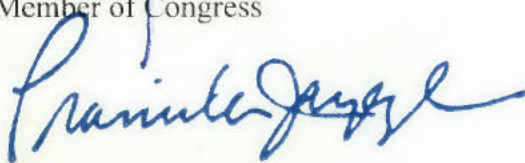
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



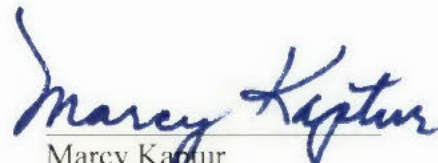
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



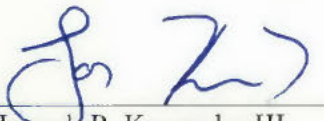
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



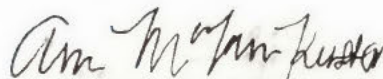
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



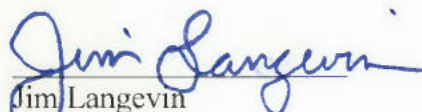
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



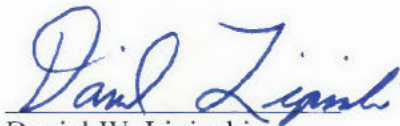
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



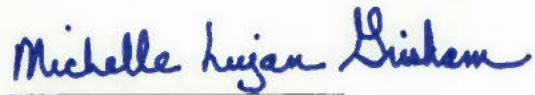
Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham

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Member of Congress



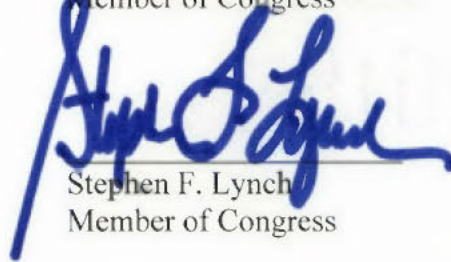
Betty McCollum

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Member of Congress



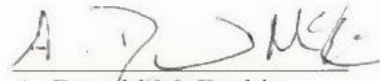
Alan Lowenthal

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Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch

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Member of Congress



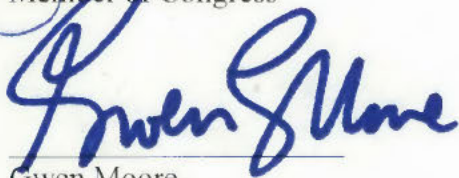
A. Donald McEachin

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Member of Congress



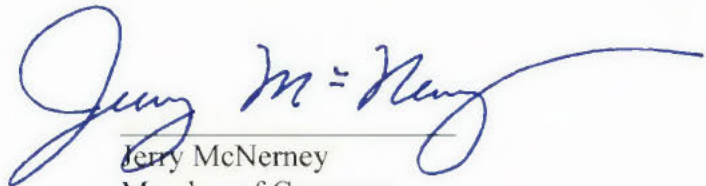
James P. McGovern

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Member of Congress



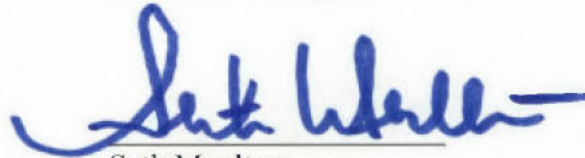
Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



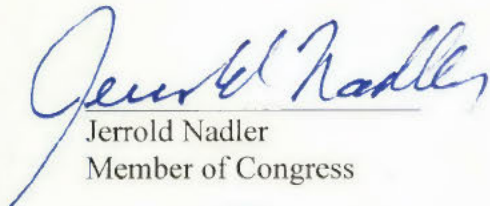
Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



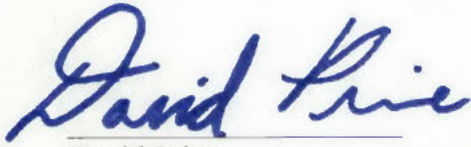
Donald M. Payne, Jr.

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Member of Congress



Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



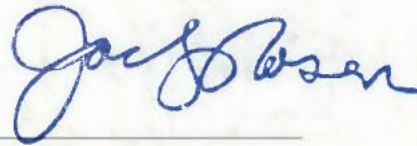
David Price
Member of Congress



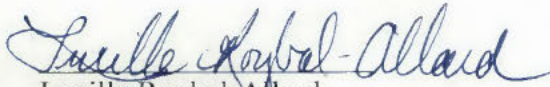
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



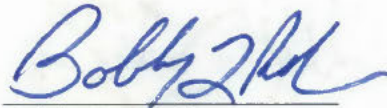
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



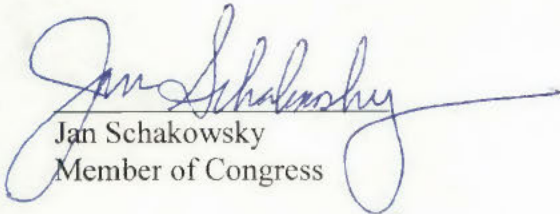
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



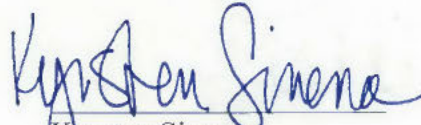
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



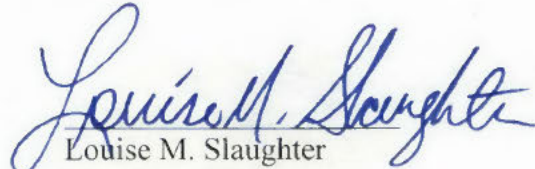
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



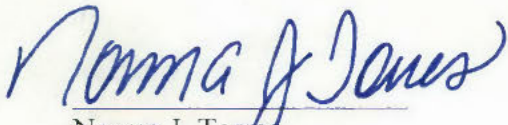
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



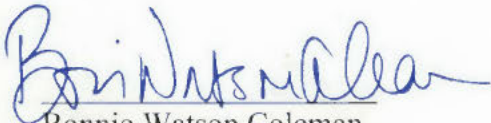
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



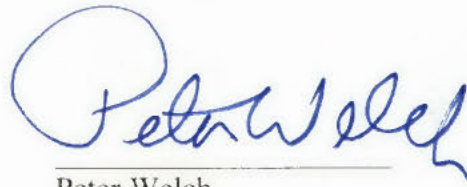
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



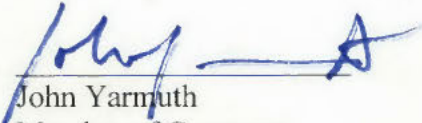
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



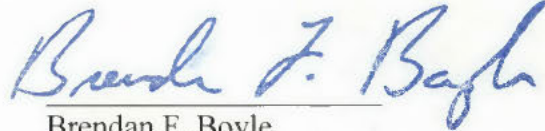
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress